



Walnut Canyon National Monument www.nps.gov/waca

Stewardship

The following centennial proposal is certified as eligible for Centennial Challenge funding consideration in fiscal year 2008. Funding for the Centennial Challenge requires legislation.

Collaborative Restoration of Water Flow to Walnut Creek

Location: Walnut Canyon National Monument, Coconino County Arizona
Partner(s): City of Flagstaff, Coconino National Forest
Total Cost: \$200,000
Proposal: #137839

This project proposes to increase stream flows and improve habitat along eight miles of Walnut Creek within Walnut Canyon National Monument. The creek corridor contributes significantly to the biological diversity, scenic quality, and archeological integrity of the monument. In 1941, the Upper Lake Mary Dam was built upstream of Walnut Canyon, disrupting reliable seasonal flows in the creek. The City of Flagstaff, Coconino National Forest, and NPS recently formed an advisory committee to assess projects which could increase flood flows in the creek. The City of Flagstaff has contributed funding to match the NPS Centennial funds, which will be used to engage a larger stakeholder group, refine project ideas, and complete a feasibility study integrated with the appropriate NEPA process. The collaborative effort will focus on the entire Lake Mary-Walnut Creek watershed, which is mostly within the Coconino National Forest. Preliminary ideas to increase flood flows to Walnut Creek without affecting current uses of surrounding lands or the lake include: modifying the lake spillway; reducing groundwater loss to the geologic fracture system under the lake; and/or restoring ponderosa pine forests across the watershed to increase natural runoff. The partners would pursue additional funding to implement selected projects between 2010 and 2016. This project demonstrates NPS excellence in resource stewardship by using a watershed-scale approach to improve a focal resource within a small national monument as the NPS approaches its 100th birthday.

For more information contact:

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Water last flowed in Walnut Creek, at the bottom of Walnut Canyon, in March 2005.